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The situation in the Middle East

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

Security Council
Sixty-seventh year

Identical letters dated 6 September 2012 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to draw your attention to the following:

The Syrian Arab Republic has received information that the Israeli occupation authorities intend to go ahead with a project to build wind turbines in the occupied Syrian Golan, taking advantage of the location and elevation of the occupied Syrian villages as well as the current situation in the region. The Israeli company Green Wind Energy has announced a project to install a wind turbine farm, which would use the constant wind over the occupied Syrian Golan to generate electricity. That information has recently been confirmed in various Israeli media reports and by independent sources. The Israeli newspaper *Maariv* has stated that certain Israeli banks have refused to fund the project because of its location in the Golan, and that the project would generate over 14 megawatts (MW) for the region at a cost of some $25 million. The Israeli newspaper reported that seven 80-metre wind turbines would be installed, each of which could generate around 2 MW. The financial supplement of *Maariv* indicated that the Israeli company planned to expand the project by taking on new partners in order to generate some 150 MW at a cost of $300 million.

* A/67/150.

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Other sources state that the project is part of a larger initiative. The Israeli Government has recently designated it as a "national project", thereby boosting the share price of Mei Golan, the company behind the project.

According to the Israeli newspaper *Kalkalist*, Mei Golan has signed an agreement with the Spanish company Multimatrix, granting the latter a 49 per cent share in the Mei Golan Wind Energy company, which owns and operates wind turbines to the south of Qunaytirah town. The turbines have a capacity of 6 MW, which the Israeli company is working to increase to 14 MW at a cost of between $25 million and $27 million. *Kalkalist* reported that the agreement between the companies would come into effect once Multimatrix had secured a sum of between 40 and 80 million shekels.

Mei Golan is also starting another joint project, with the American company AES Corporation, to build two wind farms in the occupied Syrian Golan that will generate some 400 MW of electricity. The project, which has also been designated as being of national significance by the Israeli Government, is valued at $80 million and is expected to generate some $130 million in revenue annually, starting in 2013. Sources have also noted that Mei Golan is conducting a marketing campaign in the villages of the northern Golan, with a view to building wind turbines on lands owned by the residents of those villages. It is offering to lease the lands on which it will build the turbines required for the project from landowners for a period of 20 years, in exchange for an annual sum.

Anemoi Global, an investment company that specializes in wind turbine technology, invited landowners from the Golan villages to a meeting at the shrine of the Prophet Elijah on 27 March 2010 in order to encourage them to derive benefit from their lands by allowing the construction of wind turbines. The meeting failed to achieve that objective owing to the attachment of the Syrian citizens of the Golan to their native country, Syria, and their belief that occupied territory must be returned to its legitimate owners.

While drawing the attention of the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council to this dangerous Israeli project, Syria urges them to take appropriate action through the relevant frameworks in order to avert the threat the project poses to security, stability and the prospects for peace in the region. It also urges them to stop Israel from exploiting the situation in Syria in order to continue with its projects aimed at altering the natural and geographical features of the occupied Golan and plundering its resources. Such actions are in stark violation of Security Council resolution 497 (1981) and all other relevant international resolutions, as well as international instruments governing the relationship of the occupying Power with the territory and its people.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 36, 52 and 62 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative